Examination on the merits is respectfully requested and allowance at an early date is earnestly solicited.

Please direct all correspondence in this case to:

Patent Counsel APPLIED MATERIALS, INC. Post Office Box 450A Santa Clara, California 95052

Please direct all telephone calls to the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date:

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I hereby dertify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service on the date indicated above and is addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Box Patent Application, Washington, D.C. 2023

William K. Konrad

(Date)

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

In the claims:

Claim 1 is cancelled.